

BROUGHT TO YOU BY
PENNSYLVANIA
DIVERSITY
NETWORK

LV AIDS WALK
OCT. 7

GLBT INFORMATION
SINCE
1998

VALLEY GAY PRESS

THE LEHIGH VALLEY & BERKS COUNTY'S
GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL & TRANSGENDER
COMMUNITY OPINION & NEWS PAPER

VOL. 10 NO. 8

OCTOBER 2007

PDN BINGO

Sunday, November 4th

5pm-9pm

At The Rainbow Room Bingo Hall

2413 Sunshine Rd, Allentown

(Behind Redner's on Lehigh St. near Rt. 309)

\$20 in advance/\$25 at door

Hundreds of dollars in cash prizes!!

Limited Seating - Reserve now at:

610-432-5449/info@padiversity.org

Non-smoking event. Sandwiches & refreshments for sale.

Benefits The PA Diversity Network, Valley Gay Press,
Rainbow Families, The Greater Lehigh Valley GLBT
Infoline and The PDN Resource.

READ MORE ABOUT PDN
BINGO ON PAGE 3



Mark Luong
Rainbow
Scholarship winner

THOUSANDS ATTENDED THE SUCCESSFUL GLV PRIDE
FESTIVAL IN AUGUST. SEE A HUGE PHOTO ALBUM OF THE
EVENT AT PA DIVERSITY'S WEB SITE - WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG



TO REGISTER SEE
PDN'S WEB SITE
WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG

WOMEN

JOIN PA DIVERSITY NETWORK'S
TEAM FOR THE
WOMEN'S 5K CLASSIC
RUN & WALK AGAINST
BREAST CANCER
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13

RAIN OR SHINE
LITTLE LEHIGH PARKWAY - ALLENTOWN
INCLUDES A FABULOUS
TRISH SULLIVAN TEAM BRUNCH
AFTER THE EVENT!

MCC MOVES TO SILKWERKS

READ ALL ABOUT THE MOVE TO 4TH ST. IN ALLENTOWN ON PAGE 7

HIP HOP: BEYOND BEATS AND RHYMES - OCT 9, 6:15PM

FREE PUBLIC SCREENING AT MUHLENBERG COLLEGE

READ ABOUT IT ON PAGE 5

WACHOVIA PARTNERS WITH PA DIVERSITY NETWORK FOR A VERY SPECIAL INVITATIONAL EVENT AND YOU'RE INVITED!

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17 -- 5:00PM TO 7:00PM
WACHOVIA'S WEST BROAD STREET FINANCIAL CENTER
52 WEST BROAD STREET - BETHLEHEM

Wachovia is reaching out directly to the GLBT community to offer financial and business services and support for GLBT individuals and GLBT owned businesses. This free event will take place in a great old fashioned bank building in Bethlehem, with hors d'oeuvres, beverages and entertainment by jazz singer Roberta Meek. To support PA Diversity Network there will also be a fabulous silent auction of interesting items including: a Brewworks dinner, theater tickets, art from Rafael Canizares and an estate planning package from Kate Lynn Esq. This is the first business event for the GLBT community of its kind in the Lehigh Valley and internationally for Wachovia. Please mark your calendar!

WACHOVIA



Candace Gingrich (right) with GSA Alumni
Emily Schweighardt. Photo by Adrian Shanker

CANDACE GINGRICH
OF HRC
VISITS MUHLENBERG
READ ABOUT IT ON PAGE 3

BECOME A PDN MEMBER TO RECEIVE THE VALLEY GAY PRESS IN THE MAIL, SEE PAGE 10.

What's That About?



Readers write or email "What's That About" editor Liz Bradbury with questions about GLBT issues.



This letter came to VGP via email from a PDN and Photo Project member. It has been edited for length, but it can be read in its entirety at the PDN web site in the letters section.

(Dear WTA,) ...I used to think that fighting for gay rights was a hopeless cause. I sat idly by and took little interest in politics and just waited to see if one day "the Pioneers" would make it "safe" for the rest of us.

Maybe it's because I finally met a woman that I truly want to spend the rest of my life with. Maybe it's because I'm finally growing a backbone. Maybe it's because I'm finally taking my life seriously. Maybe because I'm ashamed about "talking the talk but not walking the walk." Whatever the reason, I've decided to make my own stand. When I saw the advertisement for the "100 Same-sex Couples" photo project, I thought we should get involved in it. I was afraid of the backlash but I figured if Lillian had the guts to do it, I should too.

I still fear it but life marches on. I can no longer allow fear to dictate how I live my life. I joined in a Civil Union with the woman I love and (now) I want more.

I want the world to recognize that we love each other, we're committed to each other, and we're no different than anybody else. I want marriage. I want the same rights as everyone else in this country. I want to be able to hold my wife's hand in public without people staring, whispering, or being asked to leave. I want people to realize that I'm just as valuable a citizen as the people next door. I want to fight. I want to do more than "my part."

I want to help someone else, maybe someone who was just like me, someone who may be too afraid to stick their neck out. I know that fear, I've lived it every day of my life for 22 years. Someone fought FOR me, now it's my turn to "take up the torch" and continue the fight started by those much braver than me.

I used to think the chants "We're here, we're queer, get used to it!" were demeaning and useless. Now I know why so many took up the chant. I am what I am. I am happy that I am what I am and I am finally PROUD to be a lesbian after all these years. Sincerely, Melissa Emes

AM HASKALAH'S RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN

Looking for a Jewish religious school for your child? Am Haskalah, the Lehigh Valley's Reconstructionist congregation, is a warm, progressive and pluralistic congregation, that offers small classes (fewer than 10 children), and a curriculum that emphasizes the joys and richness of Jewish traditions, and the importance of social activism/tikkun olam. Am Haskalah is committed to serving the GLBT community. Information: religious school director Joysa Winter: 267-902-7752 or joysa@aol.com.

Dubonim, a monthly program for Jewish kids ages 2-5 and their parents, is accepting registrations. Held on the first Sunday of the month at the Jewish Community Center in Allentown, from 4-5 pm, the program includes Jewish songs, crafts and celebration. Dubonim is sponsored by Am Haskalah. \$36 for the year.

2

PEPE'S STORY

SCOTTY IN THE CITY

By Scott Laubner



To folks who have been following my New York story, I've moved. I am living in a beautiful building. The Indiana limestone exterior is embedded with fossils for the observant eye, has a canopy that goes out to the curb, and a doorman. I live up on the ninth floor in a three bedroom apartment with Mark, Pepe and two dogs, Sammy and Shakira. Pepe is a Cuban expatriate and from the beginning I had a feeling he had some good stories to tell. So one afternoon Pepe, the dogs and I sat down and Pepe told me his story.

I wanted to know what was pre-Revolutionary Cuba like for the GLBT community compared to life in Revolutionary Cuba. Gay life in Batista's Cuba was tolerable. As long as the gay bars paid off the army or the police, they would look the other way. There were at least fifteen gay bars in Havana with names like Intermezzo, El Lucero, Barrilito, El Gato Tuerto, Los Troncos, El Turis, Cheresada, and Dirty Dick's.

In July 1957 Castro attacked an army base and the Revolution was on. The army gave all its attention to the rebels and gay Cubans took full advantage of this.

In 1959 Castro took over and Batista fled to Santo Domingo. The Revolution brought some immediate changes. Pepe remembers one drastic change; all the automobiles were taken away from the rich and given to their maids. The maids were supposed to become cab drivers and earn their living that way. ("The maids crashed up so many cars. What a fiasco that was!" says Pepe.)

Gay men were supposed to become "real men." They were sent to the country for manual labor. Pepe knew guys who were forced to go to the sugar cane fields.

Pepe's birthday party in 1960 was busted by the police. To be anonymous Pepe and his friends chose a little town outside of Cienfuegos on the southern coast of Cuba. During the course of the evening more and more gay men showed up at the little restaurant for the party. Then three police cars pulled up and they told everybody in the group to step outside. As sometimes happens, the nelliest member of the group made herself the spokesman for the group. "I can explain everything," he said. "This is a birthday party. I can prove it. There is a cake in the trunk of my car."

The police man opened the trunk and found the birthday cake, but also found a wig and a head scarf. "How do you explain these?" said the cop.

"Oh, well there is a carnival the next town over and we are on our way there," said the spokesman. Everybody was taken down to the police station. Usually gay men were made to clean the jail and then have their heads shaved so everybody in town would know their secret and Pepe and his friends were afraid this would happen to them. The police chief showed up. He had been having an affair with the spokesman.

The police chief said "Everybody get out and go home." Between 1959 and 1960 Pepe made three trips to Miami and that was enough to arouse suspicion among the Cuban authorities. He was put in jail because they suspected he was working for the CIA. He finally got out of jail and in 1962 he left Cuba for good.

Pancho, Pepe's gay cousin, still lives in Havana. Pancho says there are signs that life for gays and lesbians is slowly improving in Havana. A Cuban slang term for "gay man" is pajaro, which means "bird." There is a scenic bridge in a Havana park where the gay men cruise, that everybody refers to as La Percha. It means, "the perch."

After leaving Cuba Pepe wound his way to New York City. He has been living in the same apartment for some forty-odd years. He is well liked by the other tenants and knows the history of our building and our neighborhood. When asked if he ever would like to return to Cuba, he says, "Not really; it's changed and I don't like Castro."

"But Castro is old," I say.

He sits on the couch with the dogs next to him and thinks about it for a while. On the street below a passing dog barks. We are on the ninth floor, too high up to bother with a responding woof.

HOT NEWS

HAVEN YOUTH GROUP

HAVEN MEETINGS : every Wednesday from 7:00 - 9:00PM at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 424 Center Street, Bethlehem. Meetings are open to GLBTAQI youth ages 14 - 20. Adult facilitator volunteers are needed for Wednesday evening meetings. Contact Pete Pellegrino havennyouthgroup@hotmail.com or visit Haven's Web page atwww.uucvpa.org/haven.

GLOSS EVENTS

The Gay & Lesbian Organized Sports Society (GLOSS) offers indoor & outdoor activities throughout the year. New GLBT and allied members are always welcome regardless of skill level.

The fall schedule is now in effect.

Tennis: Sundays at 3:00pm. Email for location. **Volleyball**: Thursdays at 7:00pm in Catasauqua. **Game Night**: 4th Monday of the month, at 6:30pm at Conway's BBQ Restaurant in Kuhnsville. **Bowling**: 2nd Friday of the month, at 8:45pm at the Playdrome in Allentown. **Pinocle**: 2nd Saturday of the month, at 7:00pm at the Moose Lounge, 28 North 10th Street, Allentown. **Racquetball**: every Thursday and Saturday, at 7:00pm at the 24/7 Fitness Club, Allentown.

GLOSS has an email newsletter that will keep you updated on all their events. To sign up for the newsletter go to the website.

GLOSS is always looking for people willing to be activity leaders. If your favorite activity is not listed, they will help you organize an event or outing by promoting it in the newsletter and website.

CANDACE GINGRICH

Nationally known gay activist and Senior Youth Outreach Manager of the Human Rights Campaign, Candace Gingrich spoke at a gathering of the Muhlenberg GSA and the College Democrats at the Multicultural Center at Muhlenberg College on 9/18. Gingrich, who happens to be the half sister of the far-right former leader of the House of Representatives, Newt Gingrich, made headlines in the 1990s by publicly coming out as a lesbian and speaking nationally for equal rights. At Muhlenberg, she spoke about the Employment Non Discrimination Act and student mobilization for queer causes to an audience of about 35 Muhlenberg students and faculty.

PDN BINGO!

Sunday, November 4 - 5pm-9pm At The Rainbow Room Bingo Hall - 2413 Sunshine Road, Allentown (Behind Redner's on Lehigh Street near Rt. 309) \$20 in advance/\$25 at door Admission price gives you cards to play all night! **Hundreds of dollars in cash prizes!!**

Limited seating - reserve now at: 610-432- 5449 info@padiversity.org. Non smoking event. Food & refreshments for sale. Benefits PA Diversity Network projects including: Valley Gay Press, Rainbow Families, The GLBT Infoline, PDN's Resource Web Site and The PDN Photo Project.

If you represent a business or organization that could donate a Bingo Prize, please contact PDN - info@padiversity.org.

THIRD ANNUAL PA DIVERSITY HOLIDAY ART & CRAFT SHOW

PA Diversity Gallery Space, 427 1/2 N. 9th Street, Allentown

Reception: Friday November 16, 6pm to 9pm

Reception Entrance Fee: \$7 (\$5 for PDN members)
Saturday, November 17, Noon to 7pm & Sunday Nov. 18, Noon to 7pm
(Entrance is FREE on Saturday and Sunday)

Don't miss the gala artists' reception on

Friday, Nov. 17, 6 to 9:00 pm

At the reception: meet and talk with the artists, enjoy live entertainment by local jazz legend Roberta Meek, sample fine hors d'oeuvres by Patricia Sullivan, wine and beverages, shop and support the community. For further information: info@padiversity.org -- 610-432-5449

CIVIC PLAY THE FULL MONTY

Civic Theatre of Allentown (mainstage) unspins its 80th season with Terrence McNally and David Yazbek's explosive musical comedy *The Full Monty*. Performance dates are October 5-6, 11-13, and 18-20 at 8:00pm and October 14 and 21 at 2:00pm. Individual ticket prices range from \$21 to \$28. For more information, or to purchase tickets, call the Civic Box Office at 610-432-8943.

OMICRON PLAY

OTP's *Macbeth*, directed by Company Member Christopher Michael Morris and featuring Company Members Aaron Novak (Shakespeare's R&J, The Nature Line, The Laramie Project) and Megan Ridge (Mr. Marmalade, The Nature Line, The Laramie Project) as two of Shakespeare's most bloody and infamous lovers! The cast also features: Katherine Perry, Len Neil, Alyssa Evers, Will Erwin, Cameron Gosselin, Robin Fusco & Adam Pinti. The Black Box Theatre -- The Lehigh Valley Charter High School for the Performing Arts, 675 E. Broad Street in Bethlehem. November 15 thru November 25th Tickets- \$18.00 (\$15.00 for Seniors, \$12.00 for Students).

For Reservations & Information: omicrontheatreproject@yahoo.com or call Eric Hersh, LVPA Director of Production at 610-868-2971 ext. 147.

GAY MEN'S CHORUS

The Lehigh Valley Men's Chorus is rehearsing for its November 17th concert. The LVGMC meets Tuesdays at 7 PM at the Wesley United Methodist Church, 2540 N. Center St., Bethlehem, PA. Artistic Director J. Clinton Miller invites singers who are tenor or bass voiced to join the LVGMC. For more information, contact the chorus at 610-366-3320 or visit the LVGMC website www.lvgmc.org.

ROTARY SEEKS CANDIDATES FOR BRAZIL STUDY EXCHANGE

Rotary in Eastern PA is seeking 4 individuals for a Group Study Exchange in the Amazon Region of Brazil. The four individuals would study the vocations, culture and people of Brazil for 4 weeks in April 2008. "The goal is to build international understanding of various vocations, cultures and friendships," said a statement by Rotary District 7430 Governor Gerald Long of Bethlehem. "The GSE program is truly a life changing opportunity."

Travel, lodging and many meals are provided. Ideal team members would be between the ages of 25 and 40, employed full-time in a recognized profession or business, and in good health.

Candidates may download the Rotary GSE Team Member application form at <http://rotary.org/foundation/educational/gse/member/index.html>. Telephone inquiries - 610-360-4875. The deadline for applications - 10/15/07. Completed applications go to Rotary Group Study Committee Chair Cindy Hornaman, P.O. Box 3413, Wescosville, PA 18106. For More Information: Jim Palmquist, 610-417-4247, muttnjeff@enter.net.

4 GLORA

GLORA (the Gay and Lesbian Organization of the Reading and Allentown areas) is a non-profit social group for adult men and women, both singles and couples. GLORA's activities range from potlucks, to game nights, bowling, movie nights, and holiday celebrations. Events are listed in a monthly newsletter that you will receive as a member. Some are family events that include children and some are just for adults. Members of GLORA may host events at their home or at an outdoor location. Hosting events is not mandatory to be a member. Membership: \$10 per household, annually. Web site: <http://glora.1colony.com> email: GLORA@dejazzd.com or write: GLORA, PO Box 414, Fredrick, PA 19435.

PFLAG NEWS

PFLAG - Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays, www.eastern-pa-pflag.org. e-mail: info@eastern-pa-pflag.org. Meeting locations: LV - 1st Tues., 1st Pres. Church, Allentown. 610-967-5219. Reading - 3rd Tues., Unitarian Universalist Church, Reading. 610-967-5219. Monroe - 3rd Wed., Eastern Monroe Public Library, Stroudsburg. 570-620-1234. Pottsville - 3rd Thursday at 6:30PM, Terrence Reiley Community Building, 216 N. 12th Street, Pottsville: 570-624-3151 or e-mail pflagpottsville@hotmail.com.

Meeting Dates:

Allentown - Oct. 2, Nov. 6, Dec. 4
Monroe - Dec. 19
Reading - Oct. 16, Nov. 20

SYLVIA COMICS

SYLVIA comic artist and author Nicole Hollander has graciously agreed to let Valley Gay Press feature Sylvia comics. Grateful thanks to Nicole for this swell opportunity! To see more Sylvia cartoons check the Sylvia website: www.nicolehollander.com.

SYLVIA BY NICOLE HOLLANDER

SPECIAL Goddesses



4-20

READING PFLAG (BERKS COUNTY)

Meets at 6:30pm on the THIRD TUESDAY of each month, September through May at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Reading & Berks County, 416 Franklin St. Reading. For information or to confirm scheduled meetings call: 610.858.9278. For more PFLAG information call the Help Lines: 610-967-5219, www.eastern-pa-pflag.org or e-mail: info@eastern-pa-pflag.org.

LGBTQA TEEN GROUP SPECTRUM IN READING

Spectrum is open to LGBTQ teens and their allies ages 14-18. Meetings are held every Wednesday evening from 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. on the second floor of PPNEP's Reading media center.

Spectrum seeks adult volunteers to assist with the program. Criminal background checks, training and references are required. If you'd like to volunteer, contact sexuality educator and manager of Spectrum, Amber Brown at 610-376-0137.

BERKS GAY MEN'S GROUP

Berks Gay Men's Social Group - Join BGMSG for a variety of social activities for gay men in Berks and surrounding areas. For information or to sign up email: BGMSG@comcast.net. Visit the web site for a complete list of upcoming activities. www.berksbgmsg.com.

BGMSG's annual Halloween Party is on Saturday, October 20! For more information visit the website or email.

THE GAY & LESBIAN SWITCHBOARD OF HARRISBURG (GLSH) began a reorganization effort at a meeting on Sept. 27, in Camp Hill. In attendance to discuss the reorganization were the Switchboard's current leadership, and 11 major central PA GLBT organizations.

PDN List of Upcoming Events.

October 13 -- PDN will have a team in the Woman's 5k Race to fight Breast Cancer, and will host a brunch afterward at the PDN offices. All women in the GLBTA community are encouraged to participate. You know you've been meaning to do this for years...Be on our team and we'll make it easy and fun for you to do.

October 17 -- Wachovia partners with PA Diversity Network for a very special invitational event. 5:00pm to 7:00pm Wachovia's West Broad Street Financial Center-52 West Broad Street - Bethlehem
October 30 -- PDN participates in the AHRC Awards Banquet.

November 4 -- PDN Bingo! At the Rainbow Bingo Hall with Kim Mickey calling. Hundreds of dollars in cash and other prizes!!!

November -- Informational event with Merrill Lynch Rep Amy Smart and Lawyer Kate Lynn about GLBT legal issues in Reading.

November 10 -- The PDN Photo Project will be at Reading Area Community College

November 16, 17, 18 -- PDN Holiday Art Show at the PDN Gallery in Allentown

November 18 -- PDN participates in MCC new building dedication ceremony.

Mid December 2007 -- Rainbow Families Christmas Party for GLBTA families with children. This event is cosponsored by MCCLV and will be held at the Church.

SUPPORT GROUP - BERKS

LGBTQ Support Group now forming at Sanctuary Counseling in Douglassville. Join this group for an affirming, confidential experience of community and support! Meets the first and third Monday of each month at 6:30PM. Services are free for these groups. Nominal donations for materials/refreshments are appreciated. Sanctuary Counseling provides affirming counseling for the LGBTQ community, and is conveniently located for clients in northern Chester, southeastern Berks, and western Montgomery counties and the Route 422 corridor. Please visit the web site at sanctuarycounseling.com, or call: 610-385-3155. New VGP Drop-Off spot.

No, I CAN'T prevent your PLANE FROM GOING DOWN, but I CAN MAKE SURE you don't pick up ..




PRAY to this GODDESS ON AN ALTAR MADE FROM OLD BOARDING PASSES AND THOSE \$5 SNACK BOXES AND SHE'LL MAKE SURE the ONLY SOUVENIRS of your trip ARE A TAN AND AN UGLY MAGNET.

www.nicolehollander.com

HIP-HOP - Beyond Beats & Rhymes

OCTOBER 9TH @ 6:15 PM CA

A FILM BY HUYEN DUY



A HIP-HOP BEATS & RHYMES
DIRECTED BY HUYEN DUY

With a post-film talk balk by:










- *Dr. Kate Richmond*
Psychology Department
Student '08
- *Damara Gonzalez*
Student '08
- *Monique Ellison*
Student '09

Moderated by:

- *Prof. Charles O. Anderson*
Theatre and Dance Department

FREE COMMUNITY SCREENING AND DIALOGUE with a FREE DESSERT RECEPTION

Madhatter Sponsor: Los Angeles Alliance, Black Student Association, The Multicultural Center
Off-Campus co-sponsors: The GenderYOUTH Network, The Valley Gay Press.



6 CALENDAR

Am Haskalah, Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation, Services at Allentown JCC at 22nd and Tilghman Streets, <http://www.jrf.org/amhaskpa>, 610-435-3775

ACCO-A Chorus Celebrating Women, AIDS Outreach-112 N. 5th St. Allentown, PA 610.435.8424

AIDS WALK-see **FACT**
ASC-AIDS Service Center 610.974.8701

BGMSG - Berk's County Gay Men's Social Group -- singles and couples social events berksmsg@aol.com

BMA- Bucks/Montgomery Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Concerns 215-529-0360

CIVIC and 19th St. Theater, 527 N 19th St, 610-432-8943, <civictheatre.com>

CUUPS -- Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans every 4th Sunday at noon at the UUCLV, uucv_cuups@yahoo.com.

Enigma Players-- qacres@prolog.net
equal@agere-email: equal@agere.com

FACT- Fighting AIDS Continuously Together 610.820.5519

Gaydar Magazine-- www.gaydarmagazine.com
GLEE at Air Products

GLISN- at Dun & Bradstreet, <vagranthollow.com/GLISN/>

GLORA- Gay and Lesbian Organization of Reading and Allentown www.glora.1colony.com, glora@dejazzed.com

GLOSS - Gay and Lesbian Organized Sports Society, www.gloss.org Info@gloss.org

GLOW-at PPL

HAVEN GLBT Youth Group of the UUCLV-call: 610-868-2153, email: havenyouthgroup@hotmail.com

HMFF-Hope Ministry Family Fellowship, Sundays, 11 am, Open Space Gallery, 931 Hamilton St. 610-791-0716

Integrity- Lesbian & Gay Episcopalians Family & Friends meets quarterly, 610-758-8642 gamba.guy@verizon.net

Infoline - Greater LV GLBT Infoline: 610-HELP123 (435-7123) M-F 6pm -9pm Offices: 610-432-5449 info@padiversity.org

INTERWEAVE -- GLBTAI group at the UUCLV, 3rd Sundays.. Interweave_UUCLV@yahoo.com, www.uucvpa.org 610-866-7652

LVGMC -Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus, email: info@lvmgc.org, <www.lvmgc.org> 610-366-3320, rehearsals: Tues.-Wesley United Methodist Church, 2540 Center St., Bethlehem

Lehigh Valley Transsexual Coalition- 610-814-0530 JamesHalleman@aol.com

MCC - Metropolitan Community Church, Merchants Square Mall, 1901 S. 12th Street, Allentown Services: 10:30am & 6pm, mcclehighvalley@yahoo.com, <http://www.mccclv.org> 610-709-8800

Muhlenberg GSA Muhlenberg College Organization 610.821.3244

NCC- Northampton Community College GLB Student Union, 610.861.5541(#1386) or 610-767-0296

19th St & Civic Theatre - 610.432.8943

Out There-Students at Cedar Crest College

PA-Diversity Network- 610-432-5449 www.padiversity.org PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002

PA-GALA - Pennsylvania Gay And Lesbian Alliance, (Candidate Guide, & Political Lobbying) P.O.Box 20825 Lehigh Valley 18002 610-863-0227 www.pa-gala.org

OCTOBER 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 RAA	2 LV PFLAG LVGMC	3 SPECTRUM HAVEN TEJAS	4 RAA GLOSS	5 Civic Theatre Muhlenberg Theatre Touchstone Theatre	6 GLOSS WDIY
7 WDIY UUCV GLOSS HMFF	8 RAA	9 LVGMC	10 SPECTRUM HAVEN TEJAS	11 RAA	12 Civic Theatre Muhlenberg Theatre Touchstone Theatre	13 WDIY Women's 5k RENAISSANCE
14 HMFF MCC Civic Theatre UUCV WDIY	15 RAA	16 R PFLAG LVGMC	17 TEJAS HAVEN SPECTRUM	18 GLOSS RAA P PFLAG	19 Civic Theatre	20 WDIY GLOSS
21 GLOSS HMFF UUCV WDIY	22 RAA	23	24 TEJAS HAVEN SPECTRUM	25 RAA GLOSS	26 Civic Theatre Touchstone Theatre Muhlenberg Theatre	27 MCC Tray WDIY GLOSS
28 WDIY UUCV HMFF GLOSS	29 Muhlenberg Theatre	30 LVGMC	31 TEJAS HAVEN SPECTRUM			

NOVEMBER 2007

Touchstone Theatre
Touchstone Theatre

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			HAVER SPECTRUM	1 RAA GLOSS	2	3 WDIY
4 GLOSS	5 RAA	6 LVGMC LV PFLAG	7 HAVEN TEJAS SPECTRUM	8 RAA GLOSS	9 GLOSS	10 GLOSS Photo Pro @RACC RENAISSANCE
11 WDIY GLOSS MCC HMFF UUCV	12 RAA	13 LVGMC R PFLAG	14 HAVEN TEJAS SPECTRUM	15 GLOSS Omicron P PFLAG	16 PDN ART Show Muhlenberg Theatre	17 PDN ART Show WDIY GLOSS
18 Interweave	19 RAA	20 LVGMC	21 HAVEN TEJAS SPECTRUM	22 RAA GLOSS	23 Omicron	24 WDIY GLOSS
25 GLOSS UUCV HMFF	26 GLOSS Game Nite	27 LVGMC	28 HAVEN TEJAS SPECTRUM	29 GLOSS RAA	30 Muhlenberg Theatre	

DECEMBER 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 GLOSS Muhlenberg Theatre WDIY
2 GLOSS HMFF	3 RAA FACT Snow Ball	4 LV PFLAG LVGMC	5 HAVEN TEJAS SPECTRUM	6 GLOSS RAA	7 19th St. Movie	8 WDIY RENAISSANCE
9 UUCV GLOSS HMFF	10 RAA	11 LVGMC	12 HAVEN SPECTRUM TEJAS	13 GLOSS	14 GLOSS	15 GLOSS WDIY
16 GLOSS MCC	17 RAA	18 R PFLAG LVGMC	19 HAVEN TEJAS SPECTRUM	20 RAA GLOSS P PFLAG	21 19th St. Movie	22 GLOSS WDIY
23 GLOSS WDIY	24 RAA GLOSS Game Nite	25 LVGMC	26 HAVEN TEJAS SPECTRUM	27 GLOSS RAA	28	29 GLOSS WDIY
30 UUCV						

PFLAG - LV Parents Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays, 1st Tues. 1st Pres. Church Allentown 610.967.5219 www.eastern-pflag.org

Pride - Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley, (Pride Festival) 610.770.6200, e-mail: <info@prideglv.org>, <www.prideglv.org>

Progressive Students Alliance - www.lehigh.edu/~inpsta/lvpsa/whatsa.htm

Quakers-Lehigh Valley Friends Meeting-Route 512 1/2 mi. North of Rte 22 Bethlehem, PA. Worship at 9:30 am. (610)691-3411.

RAA - Rainbow AA meetings Monday & Thursdays, 7:30p. 2nd flr Church of the Mediator -1620 Turner St. Allentown, AA Hotline: 610-882-0558.

Rainbow Families - donnienearlucas@msn.com

Ren- Renaissance Transgendered Assoc., Meets at MCCLV renlv.org

Reading P-FLAG-610-967-5219

Reading Pride - Festival in Reading www.readingpridecelebration.org

Safe Space-At Lehigh U. 610.758.5973

Spectrum -- LGBTQA Teen Group, Planned Parenthood, 48 South 4th Street, Reading PA 610-376-0137

Temple Sophia, Interfaith Sanctuary 570-657-6447 Pastor: Rt. Rev. Tom Cormier

T.O. - Theatre Outlet- Allentown, 610-820-9270.

UUCLV - Unitarian Universalist Church LV, 424 Center St., Bethlehem, 18018 610.866.7652.

VGP - Valley Gay Press, 610.432.5449, VGP@padiversity.org VGP PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley PA 18002 www.padiversity.org

Wachovia-GALEA- Gay and Lesbian Employee Association. Contact GALEA@Wachovia.com

WDIY - WDIY - 88.1 fm 93.9 fm Sat. 6:00 pm This Way Out, Assorted Women 6:30 pm, 8:00.88.

SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS:

- RAINBOW AA - MON & THURS**
 - SANCTUARY SUPPORT - 3RD MONDAYS**
 - GLOSS GAME NITE - 4TH MONDAYS**
 - LVGMC REHEARSALS - TUESDAYS**
 - LV PFLAG - 1ST TUESDAYS**
 - READING - PFLAG 3RD TUES**
 - GLOSS TENNIS - SUNS**
 - MCCLV LEV'S WOMAN'S GRP - WEDS**
 - TV HAVEN - WEDS**
 - READING SPECTRUM - WEDS**
 - MONROE PFLAG - 3RD WEDS**
 - JAN, MAR, JUN, SEPT, DEC ONLY**
 - POTTSVILLE PFLAG - 3RD THURS**
 - GLOSS VOLLEYBALL - THURS**
 - GLOSS RAC-BALL-THURS & SAT**
 - GLOSS BOWL - 2ND FR**
 - GLOSS PINOCHLE - 2ND SAT**
 - RENAISSANCE - 2ND SAT**
 - INTERWEAVE - 3RD SUNDAYS**
 - MCCLV MENS GRP - SUN**
 - OCT 4 - ALLENTOWN PFLAG**
 - OCT 4-7 - MUHLBERG THEATRE**
 - OCT 5 - TOUCHSTONE**
 - OCT 5 - CIVIC THEATRE**
 - OCT 7 - MCC ANIV**
 - OCT 7 - LVFACT AIDS WALK**
 - OCT 9 - HIP HOP @ MUHLBERG**
 - OCT 10 - CIVIC THEATRE AUDITIONS**
 - OCT 11-13 - CIVIC THEATRE**
 - OCT 12-13 - TOUCHSTONE**
 - OCT 13 - WOMENS SK RUNG WALK**
 - OCT 14-21 - CIVIC THEATRE**
 - OCT 15 - READING PRIDE MTG**
 - OCT 16 - READING PFLAG**
 - OCT 17 - WACHOVIA PDN MIXER**
 - OCT 24-28 - TOUCHSTONE**
 - OCT 27 - MCCLV TRICKY TRAY**
 - OCT 26 - NOV 4 - MUHLBERG**
 - NOV 4 - PDN BINGO**
 - NOV 10 - PDN @ RACC**
 - NOV 17 - LVGMC CONCERT**
 - NOV 15-17 - MUHLBERG**
 - NOV 15-35 - OMMRON**
 - NOV 16, 17, 18 - PDN ART SHOW**
 - NOV 18 - MCC DEDICATION**
 - NOV 29-DEC 2 - MUHLBERG**
 - DEC 3 - FACT SNOWBALL**
- INFORMATION SUBJECT TO CHANGE!**
TO POST INFO: POST 11-59
INFO@PADIVERSITY.ORG

MCC NEWS & EVENTS

MCC's Move: It's official, Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley has signed a 5-year lease for new rental space at the SilkWerks building in Allentown. Occupancy will commence November 1, 2007. The SilkWerks building is located at 930 North 4th Street, at the corner of 4th and Whitehall Streets. The entire Lehigh Valley community is invited to celebrate MCCLV's move to new space on Sunday, November 18. There will be a Building Dedication Worship Service at 10:30 a.m., followed by a "Harvest Feast." Bring a dish to share and tour MCCLV's new surroundings. All are welcome.

Can you help MCCLV with the transition process? There will be Work Days in October and moving days at the end of October. Please contact MCCLV at 610-709-8800 or info@mcclv.org if you can assist.

Adult Bible Study - Starting the first Sunday of January Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley will host an Adult Bible Study every Sunday from 9 a.m. - 10 a.m. For 2008 and 2009, the Bible Study will be a biographical study of the Bible, led by MCCLV Pastor Beth Goudy. For more information, contact Rev. Goudy at 610-709-8800 or rev.goudy@mcclv.org. welcome.

Anniversary Sunday -- October 7 is MCCLV's annual Anniversary Sunday, marking its 23rd year of ministry in the Lehigh Valley. MCCLV Pastor Beth Goudy will preach at the 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. services, with a sermon titled, "So Great a Cloud of Witnesses."

Ministry Sunday -- Sunday, October 14, MCCLV will be hosting a "Ministry Sunday." The church's ministry leaders will be on hand to share about the many ministry opportunities at MCCLV.

Freedom to Marry Day -- MCCLV will observe National Freedom to Marry Day in February, 2008. On Friday, February 8 MCCLV will lead a Courthouse Action and on Saturday, February 9 MCCLV will lead a worship service celebrating same-sex couples. For more information and to help with planning, phone MCCLV at 610-709-8800 or e-mail info@mcclv.org

MCCLV's Tricky Tray Fundraiser, October 27 at the SeWyCo Fire Hall on Route 378. Doors open at 9am with multi-item brunch starting at 10:30am Tickets are \$20 per person and come with a starter packet of 15 tickets for baskets valued at \$25 to \$50 and include the cost of brunch. There will be at least 100 baskets ranging in value from \$25 to over \$400; with special items valued at over \$450 and a 50/50.

RANTS & RAVES by STEPHEN T. LIBBY

Randomness is Fundamental to This Column

*Check out the Advocate's list of 40 Heroes. The list includes the usual suspects as well as some names that may not sound familiar. If so, Google them and find out why the publication chose Harry Hay, Barbara Gittings and Margaret the Cammermeyer. Not sure I agree with the selection of the person at number 1. Lists are designed to generate discussion. Email me and let me know who your top three are and I'll tally and print them in a future column.

*It was a decent summer at the movies. If you missed them on the big screen, catch these titles on their DVD release: Spiderman 3, Knocked Up, Hairspray, Harry Potter 5, Bourne Ultimatum, Superbad, Transformers, Away From Her, Once, and Waitress.

*I'm not going to write anything bad about Britney...except this: What the F! I've never been a fan. In my opinion her only good song is Toxic and I'm convinced now more than ever that it must have been a fluke. She needs to disappear for a while. If only to save more trees from being felled to report her every twitch, whim and undergarmentless region. Oh yeah, and take La Lohan with you.

*Unfortunately, Andy Warhol was right. Everyone is getting their 15 minutes and the rest of us must witness it. Perez Hilton? He's at the Top of my 40 Anti-Heroes or Gay Villians Lists. If you have millions of people reading your blog, have something to say besides calling celebs names like Jake GyllenHO and Mischa Farton. My 12 year old niece could have done better than that. Which got me thinking. Why do so many adult gay men act like 12 year old girls? Again, email me your thoughts.

*Great season for music. While I still have a Rolling Stones disc within reach at all times, there have been some exciting discs released so far this year. New releases by Amy Winehouse, Rilo Kiley, 1990's, Tegan & Sara, Daughtry, Annie Lennox, Plain White T's, Rhianna, Michael Buble, Brad Paisley, Against Me!, White Stripes, are all worth your hard earned dollars. Send your comments to: stl327@hotmail.com.

*Hey, while I'm here promoting the Advocate, I'm going to give a shout out to the new issue of Gaydar Magazine. The Lehigh Valley based quarterly that has just been picked up by Borders for a wider, tri-state distribution. The Fall 07 issue features exclusive interviews with authors Armistead Maupin, Edmund White, screen legend Farley Granger, Logo's Jesse Archer, Dante's Cove's Charlie David, always hysterical Margaret Cho, reality show hunks Aaron Savvy & JP Calderon and 80's Mall Queen Tiffany as well as reviews of Vienna, the new Jeep, Autumn Ales, the Harry Potter series, new DVDs & CDs and articles on "Lunchtime" Cosmetics, Gay History, Gay News in Quotes and much more. We've added pages and advertisers to the heavy-weight matte finish. To order your copy, a subscription, back issues or to advertise your business, email me: gaydarmagazine@hotmail.com. See you next month! Steve



THE EDUCATIONAL ADVENTURE BEGINS

For months Lucas was telling everyone he would be going to school in September. That day finally came. He now attends preschool on Tuesdays and Thursdays for a quick two and a half hours each day. Too quick.

Ironically, other parents have told us that this is a sad time because it means their children are growing, and they will be spending some time apart from them. We sympathized with them, momentarily, and then rejoiced in private.

Coincidentally, Lucas also was extremely excited for his first day of preschool. He was the first one up that morning. When we arrived at the preschool, Lucas was happy to be there. He wasn't shy at all even though he normally tends to be reserved with new people and new situations, but never scared. We weren't worried at all.

Some of the children were crying as their parents dropped them off. Lucas was very calm and just asked where Daddy was going. After explaining that school was for him and Daddy would be back in a few hours, he was content. While Lucas was having fun at school, the pit in my stomach was not of sadness, but of happiness.

Lucas has started his educational journey, and now has some socialization time with other children. Lucas fortunately lives in a good neighborhood, but unfortunately there are not many children for him to play with, at least not until the developers begin building new houses on the farmland around our home. Being able to see other kids is another reason Lucas looks forward to school. Ever since his first day, he often pops out of bed to say, "I go to school." From the livingroom window he watches Dad leave for work then wakes up Daddy to get him ready for school.

It has become obvious why Lucas is so happy to go to this preschool. He gets to be with other children, all of whose parents are gay too. Okay, none of them appear to be gay except the one mother that drove up in a pick up truck with power tools in the back. But the other parents do seem friendly and the teachers welcoming when they learn that Lucas has two dads.



**READ MORE IN THE
RAINBOW FAMILIES SECTION
OF PA DIVERSITY NETWORK'S
WEB SITE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG.**

CIVIC AUDITIONS - CHRISTMAS CAROL

Auditions: Wednesday, October 10, 7:00pm for Civic Theatre of Allentown's annual holiday tradition, Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol. Directed by William Sanders. No acting experience is required, newcomers to Civic Theatre are encouraged to audition. All roles are open. Auditions are for adults (older than 15, taller than 4'10", or both). Rehearsals begin Oct. 15th. Performances are Nov. 30 - Dec. 16 including three days of daytime student matinees at 9:00am and noon. Bring a photo, not necessarily a headshot. You may wish to prepare a standard British accent. All auditionees will be asked to sing a traditional, well-known holiday song and may be asked to read from the script. Auditions are at Civic Theatre, 527 N. 19th St., Allentown; Info: 610-433-8903 or e-mail mara@civictheatre.com.

8



RAGS TO RICHES TAKE THE FIRST STEP

by Denise McKelvey

HEALTH INSURANCE CRISIS

Across the nation, individuals and families who do not have health care coverage get sick more often, earn less and die earlier than those with insurance. Individuals who lose their coverage or never had coverage are a growing national trend.

The ranks of the uninsured have grown by nearly 18% since the year 2000, according to a study updated in 2006 by the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured. More than 40 million people under 65 lack insurance and millions more are considered under insured, with gaps in their coverages that leave them exposed to catastrophic medical bills. In fact, medical bills are a factor in about half of all consumer bankruptcies filed, according to a Harvard University study.

People without health insurance receive less preventive care and are less likely to have major diseases detected early. The poorer health associated with being uninsured depresses worker's average lifetime earnings significantly. The commission estimated that better health would boost earnings by 10% to 30%. Let's look at some options.

-COBRA: After leaving a job, maintain your existing benefits for up to 18 months. Coverage for a family of three can easily cost \$500 to \$1,000 per month.

-HIGH DEDUCTIBLE POLICIES: You may pay more of your routine medical costs out of pocket, but these policies protect you against catastrophic medical bills. Having the coverage also entitles you to insurer-negotiated discounts with doctors and hospitals. (It is shocking, but many medical providers charge the uninsured higher rates and fees because they aren't covered by such discounts.)

An individual HMO policy from Blue Cross with no deductible might cost a single 24 year old female \$265 a month. Choose a plan with 20% co-pays and a \$1,000 deductible, however, and the cost drops to \$62 a month.

-SHORT TERM COVERAGE: Blue Cross provides individual policies that bridge your coverage until you get your next job. States sponsor low-cost or free health insurance for children.

-ROUTINE AND DIAGNOSTIC CARE: Community health centers offer free or low-cost care. Visit the Bureau of Primary Health Care or Centers for Disease Control and Prevention can direct you to clinics and resources for the uninsured. Low cost mammograms and Pap smears are available. The American Cancer Society at 1-800-ACS-2345 can direct you to services that provide free or cheap screening for various types of cancer. Keep an eye out for local employers who sponsor health fairs. Free and low-cost screenings for common ailments, from depression to high cholesterol, are

Denise McKelvey is a Financial Advisor for Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc. located at 1045 S Cedar Crest Blvd Allentown. E-mail denise.m.mckelvey@ampr.com Phone 610.439.7000

LV AIDS WALK OCTOBER 7

www.factlv.org

WHAT'S THAT ABOUT - CONTINUED

House for Rent: 533 N. Lumber St. Available immediately! \$1100+utilities \$1500 deposit. End of row, recently remodeled, Living, Dining, kit, 3bedrooms, 3rd fl. studio/den back porch, small yard 2car garage. Maribel Nieves: 610-432-2629, nieves184@aol.com

ADRIAN SHANKER: QUEER RELIGION ISSUES

Local VGP Columnist Adrian Shanker begins his new monthly column on queer religion issues with this exclusive interview with Rabbi Richard Address, who recently edited the expanded and updated version of *Kulanu*, a 500 page manual on GLBT inclusion in Reform Judaism. This new expansion, for the first time, includes resources for the trans community - including a blessing for a gender reassignment surgery and coming out blessings for the trans community. This is the first interview in any publication Rabbi Address has given on this historic expansion.

Here are two of the questions Adrian asked Rabbi Address. Read the entire interview at the PDN web site (www.padiversity.org) in the VGP section -- see GLBT Faith Pages.

Rabbi Richard F. Address serves as the director of the Union for Reform Judaism's (URJ) Department of Jewish Family Concerns. Rabbi Address joined the URJ staff in 1978 after pulpit work in California. The URJ is the first denomination to publish transgender specific resources for inclusion in congregations. For more info on *Kulanu*, or to purchase a copy, please visit: http://urj.org/pr/2007/kulanu_revised/index.cfm

Question #3. Adrian Shanker: *Kulanu*, the URJ manual on GLBT inclusion, now includes resources for the trans community, including a blessing for gender reassignment surgeries -- how did the URJ come to decide to expand *Kulanu*?

Rabbi Richard Address: We decided to include the transgendered material because this issue is alive. We knew that the world had changed since the first edition (10+ years ago--before the department was created) and we knew that to be honest, we had to reflect the changes in the last decade. Thus, it was kind of natural to include this material.

Question #6. Adrian Shanker: This past year the Conservative Jewish movement voted to support marriage equality -- making 3 of the 4 largest Jewish movement's advocates of marriage equality. In the past, many GLBT Jews have become unaffiliated or they joined GLBT specific congregations -- how can clergy in the URJ and elsewhere make their congregations queer - inclusive -- and is there still a need for GLBT congregations?

Rabbi Richard Address: I remember that when we worked with Beth Ahavah in Philadelphia, there was a perception that there was a need for GLBT specific shuls. I honestly think that, in many parts of the country - that is changing. More of our congregations are inclusive. There is room for all kinds of synagogues and I am a believer in spreading the word of Reform and having as many choices as possible. As for clergy and inclusiveness.....well...in every congregation it all comes down to the rabbi. Certainly at HUC this is not an issue, and that sense of openness carries out after Ordination and is helping to change the field. It all comes down again to relationships and seeing people as people. There is still not this total openness on all parts of lay people in all parts of the country. But, you can make that statement about a lot of things, as I am learning.

Read the rest of this interview at www.padiversity.org.

Adrian Shanker is a junior at Muhlenberg College and a board member of the Pennsylvania Diversity Network.

VALLEY GAY PRESS

web site: www.padiversity.org

Publisher, Managing Editor -- Liz Bradbury

Publisher, Editor -- Patricia Sullivan

Columnists: Liz Bradbury, Patricia Sullivan, Denise McKelvey, Donnie Snyder, Earl Snyder, Stephen Libby, Scott Laubner, Sue Sneeringer and others

Valley Gay Press - The Lehigh Valley and Berks County's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Community Opinion and Newspaper (VGP)

operates as part of **Pennsylvania Diversity Network**. VGP owns the copyright to its articles and columns. No part may be reproduced without written permission of the Publisher. VGP offers free copies for direct mail and hand-out distribution to Lehigh Valley area not-for-profit organizations and businesses. The editorial columns and political cartoons that appear in the Valley Gay Press express the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion or attitude of this publication. VGP makes no indication of the sexual orientation of persons, organizations, or businesses mentioned in any issue.

Organizations that have VGPs for hand-out distribution:

Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley

1901 S. 12th Street, Allentown 610-709-8800

PFLAG Allentown, Reading and Pottsville -- see meeting schedule

Pride House at Muhlenberg College, Allentown

19th Street Theater -- 527 N 19th St. Allentown

Lehigh Valley Unitarian Universalist Church

(UUCLV) -- 424 Center St., Bethlehem

Haven GLBT Youth Group at UUCLV

Theatre Outlet, 930 N. 4th St. Allentown

10 Libraries in Berks County

Planned Parenthood NEPA 48 S. 4th St. Reading

Easy Does It Clubhouse (Berks County),

Reading Community Theatre -

11th & Buttonwood Sts Reading

Allen HS GSA, Reading HS GSA, Gov Mifflin HS GSA

Wilson High School GSA, Berks AIDS Network

Berks Mens Social Group, Kutztown Univ GLBT Center

Reading Area Community College GSA

48 S. 4th St., Reading

Businesses that have VGPs for hand-out distribution:

Diamondz Nightclub -- 1913 W. Broad St., Bethlehem

Stonewall Bar -- 28-30 N. 10th St., Allentown

Candida's -- 247 N. 12th St., Allentown

Hava Java Coffee Shop -- N. 19th St. Allentown

Dreamscape Comics -- 302 W. Broad St., Bethlehem

The Woods Campground

Red Star Saloon -- 11 S. 10th St. Reading

Sanctuary Counseling -- 515 Old Swede Road,

Douglasville

Valley Gay Press is published 10 times a year monthly, excepting February and September.

Deadlines are the 18th of the previous month.

PDN's membership cycle begins in January.

Circulation: 1000-2000 papers per issue.

Readership: 3500, monthly, 35k readers a year.

To Contact Valley Gay Press:

Mail to: PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002

Phone: 610-432-5449 Email: info@padiversity.org

To arrange for your group or organization to receive copies to distribute, contact VGP. Some restrictions apply.



MEMBERSHIP FORM

10

Name/s _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ zip _____
Phone _____ E-mail _____

☐ Senior dues (over 65) \$5

☐ Individual dues \$15

☐ Family dues \$20

Please fill out this form and mail it with your check to PDN. Additional contribution
Make checks payable to PDN.

☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ other

LEHIGH VALLEY RESIDENTS MAIL TO:

**PDN
PO BOX 22902
LEHIGH VALLEY, PA 18002**

BERKS COUNTY RESIDENTS MAIL TO:

**PDN
PO BOX 242
MERTZTOWN, PA 19539**

**BECOME A MEMBER OF PA DIVERSITY NETWORK
TO GET A SUBSCRIPTION TO THE VALLEY GAY PRESS**

PA DIVERSITY NETWORK MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

**PAY YOUR 2007 MEMBERSHIP DUES NOW
AND THEY WILL BE GOOD THROUGH ALL OF
2008!** Membership to PA Diversity Network, which
brings you a subscription to the Valley Gay Press, is just
\$15 for an individual membership and \$20 for a family
membership.

PA Diversity Network is a not-for-profit volunteer driven
organization which supports the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual,
and Transgender community of the Greater Lehigh Valley
and Berks County. PDN's projects include: The Valley
Gay Press, The GLBT Infoline, the PDN Resource Web
Site, the PDN Photo Project -- 200 Same-sex Couples
and Rainbow Families. PDN also fights individual
instances of discrimination on a case by case basis, does
presentations to organizations, educational institutions
and businesses on GLBT issues, and brings the
community entertaining and fun activities like special
concert events, art shows, community action
opportunities, Bingo, and participation with other
organizations.

PDN exists and functions financially in great part on
contributions and memberships from people like you.
Please become a 2008 member of PDN and further
support PDN with a contribution. PDN is a 501(c)3 tax
deductible organization.

**YOU CAN NOW PAY YOUR PDN
DUES ON LINE! JUST GO TO
"MEMBERSHIP" AT
WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG
IT'S EASY, IT'S SECURE.**

CIRCULATE YOUR GROUP'S INFO

VGP is a free way for GLBTA friendly groups and
organizations to get their information to hundreds of
people in the Greater Lehigh Valley and Berks County. If
you represent a pro-GLBT group or organization, or if you
would like to start one, email PA Diversity Network
(info@padiversity.org) or call the PDN offices at 610-432-
5449 to find out how to list and circulate information about
your group.

RAINBOW AA

Rainbow AA meetings Monday and Thursdays, 7:30pm
2nd flr, Church of the Mediator - 1620 Turner St. Allentown,
AA Hotline: 610-882-0558.

SUPPORT PDN BY SEARCHING THE NET

You can support PA Diversity Network with every
computer search at no cost to you. Instead of Google
searches, start using Goodsearch.com as your search
engine (powered by Yahoo) and choose the charity
"Pennsylvania Diversity Network." Every search will give
PA Diversity Network and all its programs including the
Valley Gay Press, one penny. If 100 people search 2 times
a day -- that is \$730 per year!

PA Diversity provides the community with a great amount
of support and resources and this is an easy way to support
PDN. PA Diversity Network has been set up with
Goodsearch for several months.

CHECK OUT PA DIVERSITY'S WEBSITE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG



LIZ OUT LOUD © 11

By Liz Bradbury REPUBLICAN FAR-RIGHT HYPOCRITE PARADE:

**** (2005)** Spokane Mayor James West -- Voted against laws protecting GLBT people in his city. -- Then admitted to relationships with men, and that he posted personal ads on gay.com. West has been accused of using his office to develop relationships with young men in exchange for "favors." **** (2006)** Ultra Far Right Minister Ted Haggard -- Used his position to vilify the GLBT community and advocate against GLBT equality -- Haggard was removed from all of his leadership positions after allegations of homosexual sex with a prostitute. Haggard denied the claims until hard evidence proved the allegations. **** (2006)** Congressman Mark Foley (R-Florida) resigned from Congress after allegations surfaced that he had sent suggestive emails and sexually explicit instant messages to teenage boys who had formerly served and were at that time serving as Congressional pages.

**** (2007)** Florida Republican State Representative Bob Allen -- Co sponsored an unsuccessful bill that would have made public solicitation for gay sex a felony rather than a misdemeanor. -- Then was arrested in his home district for soliciting an undercover male cop in a rest room. Allen offered to perform fellatio on the officer for \$20. Later Allen made a racist statement in an effort to excuse his actions.

**** (2007)** U.S. Sen. Larry Craig (R-Idaho) -- Had a history of anti-gay rights votes. -- Was arrested in June at a Minnesota airport by a plainclothes police officer investigating lewd conduct complaints in a men's public restroom. Craig plead guilty to the charges.

**** Any law enforcement agency that insists men's restroom sex sting operations are anything other than discrimination aimed directly at the gay community.**

While I gain a certain level of glee at the demise of the above anti-gay figures, it comes from the fact that their hypocrisy was exposed, not that they outed themselves.

While we all shake our heads at holier-than-thou Larry Craig types, we also have to look at the other issue. These restroom stings are nothing more than homophobia disguised as moral vigilance. Other than the crime of hypocrisy, what did Craig really do to harm humanity? (Allegedly) tap a guy's foot in an effort to stir up anonymous romance. If the man didn't want to engage, all he had to do was ignore the tap. Do these victimless crimes warrant a special police undercover operation? The worst that could happen is someone walking in on the um...date. Public indecency is a crime, but all the airport police have to do to stop it is send in a uniform cop, or set up obvious surveillance cameras.

Still think these stings aren't specifically anti-gay? Then consider this: How many women have to endure propositions in airport bars? Those advances are much more blatant and more unpleasant than a toe tap. Just ignoring the tap doesn't make a sloppy drunk on a travel junket leave a woman alone. So, why no undercover women police in airport bars arresting guys making unwanted passes? How is it different, other than being hetero? That's the issue.

PHIL GETS RADIO SHOW

Local GLBT Community leader Phil Healy now has a radio show at Muhlenberg at 91.7FM and through the website at <http://www.muhlenberg.edu>, Sunday nights, from 10 till midnight.

**A "BIG THANK YOU"
FROM PRIDE GLV
TO THE
COMMUNITY
FOR MAKING
THE PRIDE IN
THE PARK 2007
FESTIVAL A
SUCCESS.**

TRISH'S COLUMN ©

By Patricia Sullivan VAL AND THE LIBRARIES



My article about Berks County Libraries brought some interesting responses from Berks readers. One of the most poignant is this letter below. This personal story speaks to the importance of having the history and literature of GLBT people in public libraries. Since writing this letter, Val volunteered to help PDN place a collection of GLBT books donated by Hillary Sailor of Fountainhead Books in Berks County Libraries. If you want to help Val get some of these books into your Berks County Public Library, contact PDN. (This letter was edited for length, but it can be read in its entirety at the PDN web site in the Letters section.)

Dear Patricia,

I read with interest your column in the latest issue of the Valley Gay Press regarding the distribution of VGP in public libraries. I had asked Bernville Library twice why they did not display it.

I have worked in various libraries in Berks County (I still do), so I knew all the libraries were receiving it. The first time I asked the Bernville Library, I didn't get a response. The second time, I received an email from the director. She said the Board decided not to display it. That was the only explanation.

The ironic thing is...I worked at Bernville Library for about 3 years during my undergraduate work. I've had many people come up to me when I was an assistant asking for GLBT-related materials. They usually whispered. I donated the only three GLBT books in Bernville's collection. I go in periodically to make sure the books are still there. They are.

I am familiar with many of the public libraries. (I was the person who asked about it at Hamburg.) When I received the second email from Bernville, I was energized. I decided to put my Professional Writing degree to good use, and write a letter. I wanted them to know about my experience as a library assistant and all the requests I had regarding GLBT material.

I also wanted to write how the public libraries helped me as a trans/lesbian growing up in this rural area. There was a time when I couldn't even walk down the "gay" aisle in a bookstore or library. But the more books I saw, the more confidence I gained. I can now go into any Borders/Barnes and Noble, sit a stool in front of the gay section, and just read.

There was one library in particular that really has helped me. The Yocum Library at Reading Area Community College has a nice collection of GLBT-related materials. I donated a few, others have donated some, and the rest are purchased. (The Yocum Library at RACC is not a public library, but it is open to the public.) There are many (GLBT) books at Yocum. The library subscribes to the Advocate, and it has a small, but growing GLBT film section. (I am not totally unbiased. I am a graduate of RACC and I do work at Yocum as a part time assistant.)

I never wrote that letter to Bernville. I succumbed to fear. And the ironic thing is that I am pursuing my Master's degree in Student Affairs in Higher Education at Kutztown University. I want to specialize in transgender issues in Higher Education. I always thought I'd be an advocate for those who were silenced. Yet I was silenced myself. And the thing is, I did it to myself. I feel ashamed that I didn't write that letter. I was a coward. I guess I still am.

But by writing this letter to you, I feel like I can overcome that cowardice and write that letter to Bernville. Hopefully, I can be that one person to make a difference. It worked at Hamburg.

Sincerely, Valerie Schaeffer

THE READING PRIDE CELEBRATION COMMITTEE

recently held elections for new officers. Elected to leadership positions: President: Rich Spangler, Vice President: Daniel Schlenker, Treasurer: David Ramos, Secretary: Jackie Sloan. The next meeting date is Monday, October 15, at 7pm, at Canal Street Pub in Reading. For volunteer information or to become a committee member for Reading Pride Celebration, please visit www.readingpridecelebration.com.

POP QUIZ 12

1. Batman is to Bruce Wayne as Catwoman is to _____.
A. Julie Newmar B. Selina Kyle
C. Erin Kersh D. Michelle Pfeiffer
2. Halle Berry's Catwoman alter ego was named:
A. Pauline Philips B. Patience Philips
C. Polly Purebred D. Nell Fenwick
3. Which of these women did not play Catwoman?
A. Julie Newmar B. Lee Meriwether C. Eartha Kitt
D. Michelle Pfeiffer E. Halle Berry F. Eva Gabor
4. Catwoman never: A. committed murder B. kissed Batman C. had her own movie D. had an action figure
5. Catwoman made her first appearance in 19__:
A.30 B.40 C.50 D.60
6. Which Catwoman portrayer speaks 6 languages?
7. Julie Newmar was in __ episodes of TV's Batman. Eartha Kitt was in __. A.3 B.5 C.7 D.12
8. Catwoman's weapon of choice is a:
A. push dagger B. whip C. ball mace D. throwing star
9. In 1977 DC Comic's "The Batman of Earth Two" (an extra-dimensional world) Batman was posited to have married Catwoman and they became parents of:
A. The Huntress B. Kitten Girl C. Tiger D. Panther
10. Michelle Pfeiffer portrayed Catwoman in the movie
A. Batman & Robin B. Batman Begins
C. Catwoman D. Batman Returns

VALLEY GAY PRESS BOOK REVIEW

The Tiger in the Attic: Memories of the Kindertransport and Growing Up English by Edith Milton

The Kindertransport allowed 10,000 Jewish children to escape the holocaust by leaving Germany for England at the dawn of WW2. These children were uprooted from a country where life had already been frighteningly altered, to be transported to a foreign land on the brink of war. Yet Edith Milton's well written, engaging and often humorous memoir illuminates the surprising generosity and love she and her sister encountered in her new English home with "Uncle Bourke" and "Aunt Helen" and their family.

Readers are struck by the sometimes desperate need of the pre-adolescent Edith to "blend in," especially her efforts to absorb the staid English personae of her adopted family. Milton's memoir includes her post war journey to America and reunion with her brilliant, complicated mother, whose career as a doctor was not only terminated by anti-Semitism in Germany, but cut off for years by the American medical establishment's paranoid prejudice against trained Europeans.

Throughout, the author's words draw a rich picture of the life she remembers living, and its fascinating contrast to her adult understanding of what was actually happening. Ultimately this is a story of a young person's realization of her true self.

Edith Milton has an extraordinary ability to write with clarity about things she admits may be conjured by occasionally faulty memory. The fact that this is a personal account of recent history, makes this book something essential to read. The excellent writing makes it a treat.

We believe it would improve the quality of life in the Lehigh Valley if all people were equally protected from unfair discrimination based upon actual or perceived: race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry or place of birth, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, family status, age, disability or use of a guide animal, in the areas of employment, housing, and public accommodation.

PA Diversity Network

GLBT Infoline

PA-GALA

Rainbow Families

Valley Gay Press

Allentown Human Relations Commission

Safe Space of Lehigh University

PFLAG Lehigh Valley

ACCO - A Chorus Celebrating Women

GLORA

Pride of the GLV

LV Gay Men's Chorus

NCC GLBT Student Union

The Lehigh Valley Labor Party

EQUAL! at Agere

Metropolitan Community Church LV

OutThere - Cedar Crest

9th Street Shelter

Allentown

LV Community Action Committee

GLEE at Air Products

FACT

AIDS Outreach

The Unitarian Universalist Church LV

GLOSS

LEPOCO

GLSN of Dun & Bradstreet

AIDS Services Center

Theatre Outlet

Integrity - Bethlehem

The Lehigh Valley Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Civic Theater

19th Street Theatre

The Latin Alliance

The Enigma Players

New Covenant Family Ministries

Properties of Merit

Allentown City Democratic Committee

Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem

Puerto Rican Cultural Alliance

Turning Point of the Lehigh Valley

Muhlenberg Theater Association

Crime Victims Council of the Lehigh Valley

Touchstone Theater

Congregation Am Hashkafah

The Lehigh Valley Progressive Students Alliance

The Consistory of St. Peter's UCC - Allentown

United Friends School Quakertown

LV Transsexual Coalition

Lehigh Valley Transmen

Contact VGP to list your organization

CALL FOR ARTISTS
ARTISTS ARE NEEDED TO PARTICIPATE IN PDN'S ANNUAL HOLIDAY FINE ART AND CRAFT SHOW.
WHICH WILL BE THE WEEKEND OF NOVEMBER 16TH. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, PLEASE CONTACT PDN AT 610-432-5449
INFO@PADIVERSITY.ORG
READ MORE ABOUT IT ON PAGE 3

QUOTE #1

"Suggesting that the victims of discrimination should be responsible for changing the minds of bigots in order to 'earn' equal rights is immoral and Un-American." - Liz Bradbury PDN Exec. Director on the cowardly statement in the Washington Post (quoted below) and the weak position taken by the national org Human Rights Campaign on the removal of Gender Identity protections from the language of the ENDA Legislation.

"Delaying passage of ENDA, which was first introduced in the House in the mid-1970s by Rep. Bella Abzug, until the transgender community changes enough hearts and minds would be a mistake." - From the Washington Post.

QUOTE #2

"What community is expected to protect its own enemies? Don't beat up the gay community, and then expect us to protect your secrets and your double life. It's just not right." -- Blogger Mike Rogers who broke the Sen. Larry Craig restroom sting story - explaining that he will no longer call what he does "outing" but rather "reporting."

Distelfink ©10/07 by Ruby Zebu "Oh Condi"

Condoleeza Rice says people are unfairly assuming that just because she is a middle-aged, single woman and owns property with a lesbian, that she's a lesbian too!

Well, that's silly, after all, by law, I'm a single, middle-aged woman who owns property with a lesbian and....



CHECK OUT PA DIVERSITY NETWORK'S WEBSITE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG